LARGE DOCUMENT – CONSIDER BEFORE PRINTING

CONSTITUTION

AND

BYLAWS

OF

COVENANT LIFE CHURCH

Adopted June 12, 2016

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
Isaiah 9:6 [ESV]

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PREAMBLE

We, the people of God who are members of Covenant Life Church—united to worship God and to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ—adopt this constitution as our principal article of governance for the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, in submission to the Holy Bible as explained in the Statement of Faith (see Article V) of this church.

ARTICLE I: THE RULE OF JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ purchased the Church with his blood and it is his possession (Acts 20:28). He alone is the King and Head of the Church (1 Timothy 1:16-17; Ephesians 5:23). God the Father raised Jesus from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come (Ephesians 1:20-21; Hebrews 1:3-4, 10:12-13; Philippians 2:9-11). The Father put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the Church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all (Ephesians 1:22-23).

ARTICLE II: AMENDMENT & RESTATEMENT

The Constitution and Bylaws (hereinafter referred to as the "Bylaws") hereby amend, restate and supersede any and all prior bylaws adopted for and on behalf of Covenant Life Church. Any other bylaws adopted by any prior boards or incorporators on behalf of Covenant Life Church are hereby declared null and void and of no further force and effect.

ARTICLE III: NAME, INCORPORATION & PURPOSE

The name of the nonstock corporation, incorporated under the laws of the State of Maryland by Articles of Incorporation filed with the Maryland State Department of Assessment and Taxation on April 1, 2002, as amended from time to time, is Covenant Life Church, Inc. (commonly referred to as "Covenant Life Church" and hereinafter referred to as the "<u>church</u>"). The purpose of the church is to: (a) be operated exclusively as a nonprofit, religious, charitable, and educational organization dedicated to the purposes stated in these Bylaws, (b) own and maintain property to house and support a place of worship (including suitable real estate and buildings), (c) receive, hold, and disburse gifts, bequests, and funds, (d) license ministers of the Gospel for civil purposes, and (e) do all things necessary and appropriate to fulfill its mission that are consistent with the laws of the State of Maryland governing a nonstock corporation.

ARTICLE IV: THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

This church exists by the grace of God and for the glory of God, and, as part of the universal Church, its ultimate purpose is to bring glory to God in all its activities. Our mission is to worship God, love one another, and make disciples of Jesus Christ. We accomplish this through:

A. Teaching: Growing together through teaching and studying God's word (2 Timothy 2:15, 4:1-2; Acts 17:11).

B. Worshipping: Gathering in weekly congregational worship meetings and encouraging regular small group, family, and individual worship (Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 10:25).

C. Praying: Devoting ourselves to individual, family, and corporate prayer (Ephesians 6:18; 1 Timothy 2:1-4; Mark 11:17; Acts 2:42).

D. Evangelizing: Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the preaching of God's word, personal evangelism, and other means consistent with the teachings of Holy Scripture (Romans 10:13-14; 2 Corinthians 5:20-21).

E. Observing the Sacraments: Administering the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 2:38-39).

F. Making Disciples: Seeking to make new followers of Jesus Christ and equipping current followers for ministry (Ephesians 4:11-12; Matthew 28:19-20).

G. Catalyzing Missions: Encouraging, supporting, and participating in Gospel missions and church planting locally, nationally, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19-20).

H. Pursuing Fellowship: Encouraging and facilitating biblical community, prayer, and fellowship among believers (Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 3:12-13).

I. Serving: Sharing the love of Christ by caring for the practical needs of others especially the poor, widows, imprisoned, immigrants, and orphans in our midst, community, and the world (Deuteronomy 10:19; James 1:27; Hebrews 13:3; Galatians 2:10; Isaiah 1:17).

ARTICLE V: CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Section 5.01 Qualifications. The church will have members who will have certain rights, as set forth in these Bylaws, in connection with the operation of the church. In order to become a member of the church, an individual must:

A. Profess personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and receive believer's baptism (see **Exhibit A.13**).

B. Make a commitment and express a willingness to affirm the doctrine of this church, as reflected in the Statement of Faith (see **Exhibit A**).

C. Sign the Membership Agreement, the form of which is attached as **Exhibit B** to these Bylaws.

D. Complete the church's membership course adopted by the Board of Elders, which course shall be consistent with the church's mission and Statement of Faith.

E. Given the nature of the responsibilities and accountability involved with church membership, be at least eighteen (18) years of age.

Upon meeting the qualifications above, and upon approval of the Board of Elders, candidates for membership will be admitted into membership and will be welcomed into the church.

Section 5.02 Children of Members. Minor children of members may enjoy all age-appropriate privileges and responsibilities of membership (except for congregational voting). Upon a child's eighteenth (18th) birthday he or she individually may begin to pursue the qualifications for church membership. During this interim time, the potential member may continue to serve through the end of a serving term. Upon completion of all the qualifications, the child of a member shall become a member of the Church.

Section 5.03 Duties of Members. Each member is expected to participate in and contribute to the ministry and life of the church, as God leads, by using gifts, time, and material resources as God has provided. Members should strive to attend members' meetings, pray for the concerns of this church, participate in congregational voting and submit to the spiritual leadership of the Board of Elders, as they in turn submit to Christ (Hebrews 13:17; 1 Corinthians 11:1; also see Section 11.01).

Section 5.04 Termination or Transfer. Members may request to be removed from membership by informing an elder of the church of their intention to withdraw. At their request, they will be given letters indicating their standing in the church and their termination of membership.

The Board of Elders can decide to withdraw the right of membership from a member who fails to share in the fellowship and responsibilities of this church for an extended period of time. Such reasons for removal may include, but are not limited to: 1) habitually forsaking the assembly of the church, unless providentially hindered, 2) divisive action based on rejection of a portion of the Statement of Faith, and 3) death.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICE OF ELDER

There are two church offices listed in the New Testament (Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:1-13): elder and deacon. On this basis, the church has established the office of elder and the office of deacon.

Section 6.01 Church Oversight. Elders will be responsible for the oversight of this church and all elders are eligible for service on a governing board called the Board of Elders (see Article VIII). Staff elders are employed by the church and receive employment compensation from the church as a matter of biblical principle (1 Corinthians 9:7-18; Galatians 6:6-10; 1 Timothy 5:18). Non-staff elders are not employed by the church in the capacity of an elder and do not receive employment compensation from the church as an elder.

Section 6.02 Elders.

6.02.1 Qualifications. An elder will be a man (1 Timothy 2:12, 3:1-7) and a member of the church whose character and gifts conform to the biblical qualifications presented in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, and 1 Peter 5:1-4. They must be above reproach or blameless. This does not mean morally flawless or sinless, but it does mean they are to be positive examples to the flock, mature men whose lives inspire trust and confidence from the church members (Philippians 3:17; 1 Timothy 4:12; 1 Corinthians 3:4-5). In addition, the gifts and experience of the man under consideration will match the needs of the church and the duties of the position. Non-staff elders

must be members of the church for at least one (1) year prior to installation as an elder. Elders must be willing to uphold and teach this church's Statement of Faith (see **Exhibit A**).

6.02.2 Duties. The elders will be responsible to:

A. Provide spiritual oversight for the church as under-shepherds in its ministry and mission (1 Timothy 5:17; 1 Peter 5:2-4; 1 Timothy 3:4-5; Romans 12:6, 8).

B. Pray for the church and spiritually nourish the church through the ministry of the word that is consistent with the Statement of Faith (Acts 6:4; John 21:15; 2 Timothy 4:1-2).

C. Equip the church for ministry through example and instruction in the word (1 Peter 5:2; Ephesians 4:11-12).

D. Nourish and protect the church by administering the sacraments, teaching sound doctrine, guarding the church from doctrinal error, and upholding biblical standards of godliness through example, exhortation, and discipline (Titus 1:9; Acts 20:28-31; 1 Peter 5:2; Matthew 18:15-17).

6.02.3 Elder Accountability. In fulfilling his duties, each elder will be accountable to the Board of Elders. Ultimately, all elders will give an account to God for their work (Hebrews 13:17).

A. Plurality of elders provides biblical elder accountability (Acts 15:1-35; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 1 Peter 5:2,3). Each elder is subject to the leadership of the other elders, as no one elder has more authority than another elder, and as each elder is a member of the church (Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:5).
B. The elders shall meet and pray together regularly (Acts 6:4), not neglecting to share areas of encouragement and temptation, or to discuss areas of disagreement while working toward unity.

6.02.4 Elder Candidate Selection Process. The Board of Elders will be responsible for determining the leadership needs of the church and recommending elder candidates to meet those needs, with the input and affirmation of the congregation (see Sections 6.02.5 and 6.02.6). Members may make recommendations for elder candidates at any time; the Board of Elders will review all recommendations. When considering the addition of any elder, the Board of Elders will examine candidates carefully and their qualifications in light of the standards set forth in Section 6.02.1.

6.02.5 Presentation of Elder Candidate. After a candidate successfully completes an assessment process, the Board of Elders will present the name of the candidate to the congregation at least four (4) weeks prior to a member vote (see Article XII), during which time members will be invited to express any concerns about the candidate.

Members with reason to believe a nominated candidate is unqualified for an office should express concerns to the Board of Elders as far in advance of the member vote as possible. If, after looking into concerns, elders conclude the candidate meets the qualifications set forth in Section 6.02.1, elders will present the candidate to the congregation for affirmation as an elder.

6.02.6 Affirmation of Elders. Upon affirmation by sixty-seven percent (67%) of members who vote (see Article XII), the Board of Elders will install the candidate as an elder by the laying on of hands in front of the church congregation (1 Timothy 5:22).

If an elder candidate does not receive a sixty-seven percent (67%) vote of affirmation, the candidate will not be installed as an elder.

6.02.7 Change of Staff Role. The management structures of the church may, after a period of assessment, recommend to the Board of Elders a change in status of an elder from staff elder to a non-staff elder or from non-staff elder to staff elder. The Board of Elders must vote to affirm this change (67% majority). The elder under consideration will not participate in the vote.

6.02.8 Termination of Office. If it is decided by a sixty-seven percent (67%) vote of the Board of Elders after a formal evaluation process that either a staff or a non-staff elder is (1) no longer functioning effectively or fruitfully in his role or (2) is found no longer to qualify for his position because of personal or moral failure, he may be removed from the office of elder.

6.02.9 Resignation. Any elder may resign by submitting his resignation in writing to the Board of Elders. An elder's resignation will go into effect upon the Board of Elders' formal acceptance or at a date the board sets.

Section 6.03 Lead Elder.

6.03.1 Qualifications. Any candidate for the role of lead elder, if not already a member, must be willing and eligible to become a member of this church and possess proven character and gifts that conform to the biblical qualifications presented in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, and 1 Peter 5:1-4 (see Section 6.02.1). In addition, the gifts and experience of the man under consideration will match the needs of the church.

6.03.2 Tenure. The lead elder will serve for an indefinite term.

6.03.3 Duties. The Board of Elders will determine the job description of the lead elder. His main duties will be to provide visionary leadership to the elders and church and to serve as the church's primary preaching and teaching elder (1 Timothy 5:17; Ephesians 4:11; 2 Timothy 4:2; Titus 1:9). The lead elder will be accountable directly to the Board of Elders, which will advise, assist, and evaluate his work. Ultimately, the lead elder will give an account to God for his performance (Hebrews 13:17).

Section 6.04 Change of Lead Elder.

6.04.1 Discipline. In the event that discipline of the lead elder becomes necessary, the Board of Elders will assume responsibility for the disciplinary process in keeping with scriptural instructions (1 Timothy 5:19-21), as well as the church's policy on church discipline.

6.04.2 Severability. Remaining elders will continue to serve the church when the lead elder retires, resigns, or is removed for any reason.

6.04.3 _Removal of Lead Elder. The Board of Elders may initiate a recommendation to change the lead elder. The recommendation must be confirmed by a vote of at least sixty-seven percent (67%) of the Board of Elders. The lead elder will not participate in this vote. If the vote carries, the lead elder will resign within three (3) months after the results of the vote, or at a date the Board of Elders sets.

6.04.3.1 Repositioning the Lead Elder. When a lead elder is removed from or relinquishes his position, the Board of Elders will reassess and determine what role, if any, he will have within this church.

6.04.4 Lead Elder Candidates. In the event a new lead elder is necessary, the Board of Elders will select a candidate to present to the congregation. A sixty-seven percent (67%) approval vote of the Board of Elders will be required to present the candidate to the congregation for affirmation.

6.04.5 Congregational Involvement. The Board of Elders will provide the church opportunity to become familiar with the character and ministry of any candidate being seriously considered as the next lead elder.

6.04.6 Presentation of Lead Elder. Once the Board of Elders has selected a candidate, it will present him to the congregation at least four (4) weeks prior to a vote of affirmation, during which time members will be invited to express any concerns about, or support for, the candidate.

Members with reason to believe the candidate is unqualified for his office should express concerns to the Board of Elders as far in advance of the vote as possible. If, after looking into concerns, the Board of Elders concludes the candidate meets the qualifications set forth in Section 6.02.1, the board will present him to the congregation for affirmation as lead elder.

6.04.7 Affirmation of Lead Elder. An announcement for a special members' meeting for the affirmation of the lead elder will be made at least four (4) weeks prior to the meeting. Upon affirmation by seventy-five percent (75%) of members who vote (see Article XIII), the Board of Elders will install the candidate as lead elder by the laying on of hands in front of the church congregation (1 Timothy 5:22).

If the nominee is unable to receive a seventy-five percent (75%) vote of affirmation, the Board will not install him as lead elder.

6.04.8 Interim Lead Elder. In the event of a lead elder vacancy, the Board of Elders may appoint an interim lead elder from within or outside its current board until the church affirms a new lead elder. An interim lead elder normally will serve no longer than one (1) year.

Section 6.05 Resolving Charges Against an Elder.

6.05.1 If a church member, staff member, or employee has an offense with an elder that he or she cannot overlook (Proverbs 19:11), the offense shall be submitted according to the church's complaint mediation policy which will involve additional witnesses (in accordance with Matthew

18:15-17; 1 Timothy 5:19-21), the other elders, and congregational accountability as defined in the complaint mediation policy.

6.05.2 A church member, staff member, or employee who has a criminal accusation against an elder is encouraged to contact the police or appropriate law enforcement agency.

6.05.3 An elder removed from office by disciplinary action, in certain circumstances after showing the fruit of repentance over time, may be considered by the Board of Elders and the congregation for a return to the office of elder. The process for selection and affirmation of elders will be followed (see Section 6.02).

Section 6.06 Term of Office. Once a man has been affirmed by the congregation as an elder of the church and has been installed before the congregation, he will be recognized as an elder.

Staff elders are expected to serve as an elder indefinitely (except for sabbaticals as stated in the church's human resources policy), as long as the elders deem him qualified for office and fulfilling his responsibilities.

Each non-staff elder shall serve for a term of 4 years and may serve up to 2 consecutive terms. After 2 consecutive terms, the non-staff elder shall receive a 1-year sabbatical. After the sabbatical, the non-staff elder may return to the office of elder, subject to the affirmation of the congregation and the approval of the Board of Elders. At the end of any term the non-staff elder may request to become inactive for a period of time subject to the approval of the Board of Elders.

ARTICLE VII: OFFICE OF DEACON

Section 7.01 Deacons. Deacons are members of the church who demonstrate godly character (1 Tim 3:8-13) and are appointed by the elders to attend to designated needs of the church (Acts 6:2-7). Deacons do not oversee or rule the church but serve the church in specific tasks so that the ministry of the word of God continues to increase (Acts 6:7).

ARTICLE VIII: BOARD OF ELDERS & OFFICERS

Section 8.01 Composition. The church will be governed by a board of elders called the Board of Elders. The board will preferably be comprised of both staff and non-staff elders. Every man affirmed as an elder by this church will serve as a member of the Board of Elders. As the board of the corporation/church, the Board of Elders will be subject to the relevant laws of the state of Maryland.

Section 8.02 Officers. The church shall have the following officers: a chairman of the Board of Elders and vice-chairman of the Board of Elders, president, vice president, treasurer, secretary and assistant secretary. The Board of Elders shall elect the chairman, vice-chairman, vice president, treasurer and secretary. The chairman, vice-chairman, president, and vice president shall be members of the Board of Elders. The treasurer and secretary may either be members of the Board of Elders or church members in good-standing.

8.02.01 Number and Positions. Two or more offices may be held by the same person except that each of the offices of the chairman of the Board of Elders, president and secretary may not be held by the same person. The Board of Elders may appoint such other officers and agents as it shall deem necessary, who shall hold their offices for such terms and shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as shall be determined from time to time by the Board of Elders.

8.02.02 Term of Office. Except with respect to the president who is the Lead Elder and who is appointed pursuant to the provisions of Article VI, the Board of Elders shall elect officers of the church, who shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Elders. Each elected officer shall serve for a term of two years. Any officer elected or appointed by the Board of Elders may be removed at any time by the affirmative vote of 67 percent of the whole Board of Elders, whenever, in their judgment, the best interests of the church will be served thereby. If the office of any officer becomes vacant for any reason, the vacancy shall be filled by the Board of Elders. In case of the absence or disability of an officer of the church, or in any other case that the Board of Elders may deem sufficient reason therefore, the Board of Elders, by a 67 percent vote, may delegate for the time being any or all of the powers or duties of any officer to any other officer, Elder, or any other person, subject to the limitations described in Section 8.02.01.

8.02.03 President. The lead elder shall be president of the church and shall have principal responsibility to establish the Church's vision, mission, and priorities.

8.02.04 Vice President. The vice president shall, in the absence of the lead elder, perform the duties and exercise the powers of the lead elder, or such of them as may be so delegated, and shall have such other rights, duties, and powers as are authorized by the Board of Elders from time to time.

8.02.05 Secretary. The secretary, or assistant secretary (discussed below) shall attend all meetings of the Board of Elders and record all votes and the minutes of all proceedings in a book to be kept for that purpose, and shall perform like duties for the standing committees when required. The secretary shall give, or cause to be given, such notice as is required of all meetings of the Board of Elders and shall have such other rights, duties, and powers as are authorized by the Board of Elders from time to time. The secretary shall keep in safe custody the seal of the Corporation and, when authorized by the

Board of Elders, affix the same to any instrument requiring it, and when so affixed it shall be attested by the signature of the secretary, or by the signature of the treasurer or an assistant secretary.

8.02.06 Assistant Secretary. The assistant secretary shall, in the absence or disability of the secretary, perform the duties and exercise the powers of the secretary, and shall have such other rights, duties, and powers as are authorized by the Board of Elders from time to time.

8.02.07 The Treasurer. Except as the Board of Elders may otherwise determine, the treasurer shall deliver all funds and securities of the church which may come into his hands to such bank or trust company as the Board of Elders shall designate as a depository, and shall keep full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the church. The treasurer shall disburse the funds of the church as may be ordered by the Board of Elders, taking proper vouchers for such disbursements, and shall render to the Lead Elder and the Board of Elders, at the regular meetings of the Board of Elders or whenever they may require it, an account of all his transactions as treasurer and of the financial condition of the church. If required by the Board of Elders, the treasurer shall give the church a bond in such sum and with such surety or sureties as shall be satisfactory to the Board of Elders for the faithful performance of the duties of his office, and for the restoration to the church, in case of death, resignation, retirement or removal from office, of all books, papers, vouchers, money, and other property of whatever kind in possession or under the control of the treasurer, belonging to the church. The treasurer shall also have such other rights, duties, and powers as are authorized by the Board of Elders from time to time.

8.02.08 Assistant Treasurers. The assistant treasurers in the order of their seniority shall, in the absence or disability of the treasurer, perform the duties and exercise the powers of the treasurer, and shall have such other rights, duties, and powers as are authorized by the Board of Elders from time to time.

8.02.09 Chairman. The chairman will preside at all board meetings. If the chairman is not available, the vice-chairman will preside. The chairman will be selected from the pool of non-staff elders. In the event that none of the non-staff elders is able to serve as chair, then a staff elder may serve as chair.

Section 8.03 Duties of the Board of Elders. The Board of Elders is responsible for governing the church and tending the flock as overseers. These responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

A. Overseeing the preaching and teaching of God's word.

B. Administering church discipline and judicial processes.

C. Overseeing the strategic long-term goals and objectives of the church.

D. Overseeing administration of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

E. Clarifying and guarding church doctrine and practices, including the formulation and adoption of church policies and proposing revisions to these Bylaws.

F. Delegating responsibilities to the management structures of the pastoral team, deacons, or committees as it deems appropriate.

G. Identifying, developing, and deploying leaders in the church.

H. Overseeing the establishment and presentation of the church budget for congregational affirmation.

I. Providing final authority for affairs pertaining to property and other temporal matters as required by civil law for nonprofit corporations.

J. Overseeing membership rolls of the church.

K. Receiving, managing, and stewarding resources for the accomplishment of this church's mission (see Article XII).

L. Developing and overseeing partnerships and affiliations with other churches, networks, denominations, and organizations that help accomplish the mission and purpose of this church.

Section 8.04 Meetings. The Board of Elders normally will meet at least once each month. The chairman, lead elder, or a majority of board members may call special meetings, which will require at least three (3) days' notice unless waived by the Board of Elders through written waivers, waivers by email, or by virtue of their presence at the meeting.

Section 8.05 Quorum for Board of Elders. A sixty-seven percent (67%) majority of the Board of Elders present in person or participating by other electronic means will constitute a quorum.

Section 8.06 Board Decisions. Unless stipulated otherwise, a sixty-seven percent (67%) majority of the quorum is required for Board of Elder decisions.

Section 8.07 Distribution of Minutes of Board Meetings. A copy of the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Elders shall be available in the church office for the review by a church member during the normal office hours of the church.

Section 8.08 Grievances. Church members may, at any time, submit suggestions, complaints and/or grievances according to the church's complaint mediation policy.

Section 8.09 Management Structures. The Board of Elders may establish management/leadership structures to provide ministry oversight. These structures will report to and be accountable to the Board of Elders.

Section 8.10 Committees. The Board of Elders may appoint various at-large committees from within its membership, the staff, and the congregation to accomplish the church's mission. The Board of Elders may change the membership and structure of these committees as the Board of Elders believe appropriate. These committees will perform tasks solely in accordance with the duties and powers specifically delegated by the Board of Elders. The board will specify the period of time all committees will exist.

Section 8.11 Deacons. The Board of Elders may appoint deacons in accordance with Article VII.

ARTICLE IX: CHURCH DISCIPLINE

Section 9.01 Discipline. Discipline is the exercise of authority given the Church by the Lord Jesus Christ to instruct and guide its members and to promote its purity and welfare. It refers to the instruction of the Church and the reproof of its members who stray from Jesus Christ. It is the latter sense that is in view in this Article IX. (For a fuller explanation on this topic, please refer to the church's policy on church discipline).

Church members will be taught and exhorted to conduct their lives according to the standards set forth in Scripture. Such conduct includes *individual* moral purity (Galatians 5:22-23; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Ephesians 4:25-32) and the promotion of *corporate* unity and doctrinal fidelity (Ephesians 4:3; Romans 16:17-18; 2 Timothy 3:1-17; Titus 3:10-11).

Section 9.02 Purposes of Discipline. The Church is commanded to pursue loving formal discipline of its members when they continue in open and/or habitual sin. The immediate purpose of this process is not to disassociate an unrepentant member, but rather to restore an unrepentant member. The purpose of church discipline includes the following:

A. To guard the integrity of Christ's name (Ephesians 4:1-3; Colossians 4:5-6).

B. To help us conform individually and corporately to Christ to protect the purity and unity of his Church for the glory of God (Colossians 1:28; Ephesians 4:1-6; 1 Corinthians 10:31).

C. To help restore a wandering soul back to Christ by ministering with grace and truth (Matthew 18:10-14, 15-17; Romans 12:9-21; 1 Corinthians 5:5, 13:1-13; Galatians 5:14-15, 6:1-5; Ephesians 4:25, 29-32; Philippians 2:1-8; I John 4:7-12).

D. To help protect the church from false teachers and division (Acts 20:25-31; Titus 1:10-11).

Section 9.03 Agreement to Submit to Church Discipline. Every member of this church consents to support and, if necessary, submit to the process of church discipline outlined in Section 9.04.

Section 9.04 Process of Discipline. The entire process of church discipline as outlined will be carried out and enforced in a spirit of Christian love and compassion (Matthew 18:21-22; Galatians 6:1; 2 Timothy 2:22-26).

In accordance with Matthew 18:15-18, should any member persist in sin, the steps of discipline outlined in Scripture will be followed to accomplish the aforementioned purposes. We will do this by:

A. Privately seeking reconciliation by going personally to the member (Matthew 18:15).

B. Involving one or two others to establish the facts of the offense and further pursue reconciliation (Matthew 18:16).

C. Telling the appropriate segment of the church to seek further reproof (Matthew 18:17). The Board of Elders will determine the appropriate segment of the church and, in some cases, could include the entire church if warranted for the benefit of the individual and members of this church.

D. Treating the unrepentant as an unbeliever, removing the individual from membership, with possible disassociation and severance of Christian fellowship (Matthew 18:17).

E. Enacting discipline. It is hoped the preliminary steps of discipline, as outlined, will result in repentance. However, if there is no indication of repentance after these steps are taken, the unrepentant person's membership will be terminated. Such termination of membership will be decided by a vote of the Board of Elders after due consideration and prayer. The reason for termination of membership will be stated in a letter and sent to the individual.

Section 9.05 Removal or Transfer. If the Board of Elders discerns a member has requested removal from membership merely to avoid church discipline, the board will record that the member is under discipline.

Section 9.06 Restoration and Repentance. When the Board of Elders concludes that an individual who has been placed under church discipline demonstrates genuine repentance, he or she can be restored into church membership in accordance with the process outlined in Article V.

ARTICLE X: CHURCH ASSOCIATION

Section 10.01 Church Cooperation. This church may voluntarily cooperate with other churches or organizations in accomplishing its mission and purpose at the discretion of the Board of Elders. This cooperation will not involve the subordination of the authority of the Board of Elders and this local church to such church networks or denominations.

Section 10.02 Church Affiliation. This church may formally affiliate or disaffiliate with church networks or denominations in accomplishing its mission and purpose at the discretion of the Board of Elders and with the affirmation of the members in accordance with these Bylaws. Such affiliations shall not involve the subordination of the authority of the Board of Elders and this local church to such church networks or denominations.

ARTICLE XI: MEMBERS' MEETINGS AND VOTING

Section 11.01 Members' Meetings. The Board of Elders will call members of the church together at least once per year but more frequently as the Board of Elders believe necessary. Members' meetings will provide elders an opportunity to (a) present major initiatives, (b) introduce the budget, (c) introduce candidates to be nominated or affirmed to the Board of Elders, (d) present amendments to these bylaws and/or Articles of Incorporation, and (e) present other pertinent church issues. Members' meetings in which the matters for congregational affirmation identified below are to be introduced and discussed will

be announced to the congregation at least four (4) weeks in advance. Information with respect to Member Matters will be provided to the members at the Member Meetings and by other means as the Board of Elders deem appropriate.

The following matters will require the affirmative vote of the members in accordance with the provisions of Section 11.02 below (collectively, "Member Matters"):

A. Approval of a new lead elder.

B. Approval of new elders.

C. Approval of the annual church budget.

D. Approval of out-of-budget expenses in excess of ten percent (10%) of the annual operating budget.

E. Approval of any revision, amendment or modification to these bylaws and any of the exhibits attached to these bylaws.

F. Approval of formal church affiliation or dissolution with a church network or denomination.

G. Approval of other matters deemed appropriate for congregational affirmation as determined by the Board of Elders.

Section 11.02 Voting Procedures. Members of the church who are not currently undergoing discipline will be eligible to vote on Member Matters. Except with respect to the affirmation of the Lead Elder, the affirmative vote of sixty-seven percent (67%) of the members who vote on any Member Matter is necessary for the affirmation and approval by the members of a Member Matter. With respect to the affirmation of the Lead Elder, an affirmative vote of seventy-five percent (75%) of the members who vote is necessary for the affirmation and approval of the Lead Elder.

Section 11.03 Quorum. Ten percent (10%) of eligible members will constitute a quorum, provided the provisions regarding notice have been met.

Section 11.04 Amending These Bylaws. The church may amend these Bylaws after a vote of sixty-seven percent (67%) by the Board of Elders and subsequent affirmation by the members as described above. Any member with reason to believe a proposed amendment is not biblically sound or helpful should express such concerns to the Board of Elders as far in advance as possible prior to the vote of affirmation.

Any member of Covenant Life Church may request an amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws by submitting a written change proposal directed to the Chairman of the Board of Elders. The Amendment Proposal shall include

A. Existing text to be modified, or where the proposed new text should be inserted
B. The proposed new text
C. Background and rationale for the proposed amendment
D. Names and signatures of at least five current members who support the proposed amendment

The Board of Elders will:

A. Notify the submitters that the proposal has been received;
B. Consider the merits of all proposed amendments within one year of submission;
C. Accept, modify, or reject each amendment proposal;
D. Record the outcome of each amendment proposal in the meeting minutes of the Board of Elders (Section 8.07), which will take the form of

    i. Acceptance of the proposed amendment for ratification as written, or
    ii. Acceptance of the proposed amendment for ratification as modified, or
    iii. Rejection of the proposed amendment, with rationale for the rejection.

E. For amendment proposals accepted or modified by the Board of Elders, publish the proposed amendment to the members, convene one or more public meetings for members to discuss the proposed amendment, and submit the proposed amendment for congregational affirmation by the members as described above.

ARTICLE XII: FISCAL MATTERS

Section 12.01 Board of Elders Oversight. The Board of Elders will conduct its affairs with integrity in the sight of God and man and will maintain prudent and responsible control and accountability over all funds it receives and spends.

Except as otherwise determined by a majority vote of the nonstaff elders, staff elders shall be recused from discussions and decisions involving staff elder compensation.

Section 12.02 Budget Approval. Members will approve an annual budget prior to the start of the fiscal year in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws. If a budget is not approved prior to the start of the new fiscal year, the church shall operate according to the most recent budget approved by the congregation until the members affirm a budget.

Section 12.03 Deposits. The Board of Elders shall select banks, trust companies, or other depositories in which all funds of the church not otherwise employed shall, from time to time, be deposited to the credit of the Corporation.

Section 12.04 Checks. The Board of Elders shall have the power to fix, and from time to time to change, the maximum dollar amount above which dual signatures are required, unless otherwise set. All checks or demands for money and notes of the church exceeding $1,999 Dollars shall be signed by any two such officers or such other persons as the Board of Elders may from time to time designate. The signature of only one such officer or other designated person shall be required for checks or demands for money and notes of the church in the amount of $1,999 or less.

Section 12.04 Fiscal Years. The Board of Elders shall have the power to fix, and from time to time to change, the fiscal year of the Church. Unless otherwise fixed by the Board of Elders, the fiscal year shall commence on September 1 and shall terminate on the following August 31.

Section 12.05 Accounting and Fiduciary Guidelines. The Board of Elders shall conduct its affairs with unimpeachable integrity in the sight of God and men, and shall to that end maintain prudent and responsible control and accountability over all funds it receives and ensure that all funds are dedicated to the church's purposes. The Church's financial statements shall be prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and subject to an annual audit by an independent registered public accounting firm.

Section 12.06 Designated Contributions. The church may accept any designated contribution, grant, bequest or devise consistent with its general tax-exempt purposes and applicable laws, as set forth in the Articles of Incorporation and these Bylaws. As so limited, donor-designated contributions will be accepted for special funds, purposes or uses, and such designations will be honored and the contributions applied to such designated purpose. Further, the church shall retain sufficient control over all donated funds (including designated contributions) to assure that such funds will be used to carry out the church tax-exempt purposes. Any designated contributions that a donor or member designates for uses or purposes that are not consistent with the church's tax-exempt purpose will be returned to such donor or member.

Section 12.07 Loans to Elders and Officers Prohibited. No loans shall be made by the church to the elders or officers. Any elder or officer who assents to or participates in the making of any such loan shall be liable to the church for the amount of such loan until it is repaid.

ARTICLE XIII

INDEMNIFICATION

Section 13.01: Immunity for Serving in Capacity As Board Member. A member of the Board of Elders shall be immune from liability by reason of his being or having been a member of the church's corporate board if he shall perform his duties in good faith, in a manner he reasonably believes to be in the best interests of the church, and with the care that an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would use under similar circumstances. To perform his duties accordingly, a member of the Board of Elders may rely on any information, opinion, report or statement, including any financial statement or other financial data, prepared or presented by an officer or employee of the church, a lawyer or certified public accountant or other person which the elder reasonably believes to be within the person's professional or expert competence, or an authorized committee of the Board on which the elder does not serve, so long as the elder reasonably believes the committee merits his confidence.

Section 13.02 Immunity for Service As Officer or Other Non-Board Member. No person who renders service to or for the church, in a capacity as an officer or committee member, shall be liable, and no cause of action may be brought, for damages resulting from the exercise of judgment or discretion in connection with the duties or responsibilities of such officer or committee member for damages resulting from an act or omission in rendering such services, unless the act or omission involved willful or wanton, conduct; provided, however, such relief from liability shall not apply in any instance where such relief is inconsistent with any provision applicable to corporations described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Code.

Section 13.03 Indemnification Against Third Party Lawsuits and Other Proceedings. Any person made or threatened to be made a party to any action or proceeding, whether civil or criminal, by reason of the fact that he, his testator or intestate, is or was a member of the Board of Elders or officer, employee, or agent of the church, may be indemnified by the church, and the church may advance his related expenses, to the fullest extent permitted by law, including but not limited to, judgments, penalties, fines, settlements, and expenses incurred in a successful defense. The Church may indemnify any elder who is made a party to any proceeding by reason of service in that capacity as an elder. The determination to indemnify an elder shall be made by a majority vote of a quorum of the Board of Elders consisting of elders who are not, at the time, parties to the proceeding, or if such a quorum cannot be obtained, then by a majority vote of a committee of the Board consisting solely of two or more elders who are not, at the time, parties to the proceeding and who were duly designated to act in the matter by a majority vote of the full Board in which the designated elders who are parties may participate.

Section 13.04 Exception for Liability to Church. Notwithstanding the foregoing paragraphs, the liability of an elder, officer or other person to the church shall not be limited to the extent that it is proved that he or she actually received an improper benefit or profit in money, property, or services for the amount of the money, property, or services actually received, or to the extent that a judgment or other final adjudication adverse to the person is entered in a proceeding on a finding in the proceeding that the person's action, or failure to act, was the result of active or deliberate dishonesty and was material to the cause of action adjudicated in the proceeding. If the Board of Elders determines that the act or omission of an elder who seeks to be indemnified by the church was committed by such elder in bad faith or was the result of active and deliberate dishonesty, or unless the elder actually received an improper personal benefit in money, property, or services, or in the case of any criminal proceeding, the elder had reasonable cause to believe that the act or omission was unlawful, then the Church shall not indemnify such elder. The determination of the Board of Elders referenced in the immediately preceding sentence shall be made by a quorum of the Board of Elders (excluding the elder seeking indemnity) at a meeting.

Section 13.05 Insurance Coverage. The Church may purchase and maintain insurance to indemnify: (a) itself for any obligation which it incurs as a result of the indemnification specified above; and (b) its elders, officers, employees, and agents.

Exhibit A: STATEMENT OF FAITH

Section A.01 Scripture. We receive the Bible, consisting of 39 books of the Old Testament and 27 books of the New Testament, as the written word of God. The Bible is the only essential and infallible record of God's self-disclosure to mankind, able to lead us to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Given by God, Scripture is fully and verbally inspired by God. Therefore, in the original writings, the Bible is inerrant and true. Believers are to interpret each book according to its context and purpose and in reverent obedience to the Lord, who speaks through Scripture in living power. All believers are exhorted to study Scripture and diligently apply it to their lives. Scripture is the authoritative, normative, and completely sufficient rule and guide for all life, practice, and doctrine to which it speaks. Therefore, it must not be added to, superseded, or changed by later tradition, extra-biblical revelation, or worldly wisdom. Every doctrinal formulation—whether of creed, confession, or theology—must be put to the test of the full counsel of God in Holy Scripture (2 Timothy 3:14-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21; Psalm 19:7-11).

Section A.02 God Is Triune. There is one God: infinite, eternal, almighty, self-existent, and unchangeable in his being and perfect in his holiness, truth, and love. In the unity of the Godhead there are three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who are co-existent, co-equal, and co-eternal, and who love and glorify one another in perfect fellowship. The Father is not the Son, the Son is not the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is not the Father—yet each is truly God. One God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—is the foundation of Christian faith and life (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19). God commands to be worshipped and is alone worthy of worship.

Section A.03 God the Father. God the Father is the Creator of Heaven and Earth, who by his Word and for his glory, freely and supernaturally created the world out of nothing (Genesis 1; John 1:1-3; Isaiah 40:28). He sovereignly rules over all (Psalm 47:8, 115:3). His plans and purposes cannot be thwarted (Job 42:2). He is faithful to every promise, works all things together for good to those who love him, and in his unfathomable grace gave his son, Jesus Christ, to redeem a people for himself (Romans 8:28-39). He made man for fellowship with himself and intended that all creation should live to the praise of his glory (Ephesians 1:3-14).

Section A.04 Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, is the eternal Word who was made flesh, supernaturally conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, who was a virgin (John 1:1-18; Matthew 1:18-25). He is perfect in his nature (Hebrews 1:3) and obedience to his Heavenly Father, having been tempted as we are yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15). He is fully God and fully man. He always was with God and is God. Through him all things came into being and were created (John 1:1-4). He was before all things and in him all things hold together by the word of his power (Hebrews 1:3). He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, and in him dwells the fullness of the Godhead bodily (Colossians 1:15,19). He is the only Savior for humanity, shedding his blood and dying a substitutionary death suffering God's wrath for the sins of his people on Calvary's cross (Romans 3:25, 5:6-9; Colossians 1:20-22). By his death in our place, he revealed divine love and upheld divine justice, removing our guilt and reconciling us to God. Having redeemed us from sin, on the third day he rose bodily from the grave—victorious over death and the powers of darkness—and for a period of 40 days appeared to more than 500 witnesses, performing many convincing proofs of his resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:3-7; Acts 1:3).

He ascended into Heaven where, at God's right hand, he intercedes for his people and rules as Lord over all (Hebrews 7:25; Ephesians 1:20-22). He is the head of his body—the Church—and should be worshiped, loved, served, and obeyed by all (Colossians 1:18; Matthew 28:17; Revelation 5:12-14).

Section A.05 The Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit—the third Person of the Trinity (Matthew 28:19)—is the Giver of life (Psalm 104:30) and convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8-11). Through the proclamation of the Gospel, he regenerates and persuades sinners to repent and confess Jesus as Lord (1 Corinthians 12:3). The Holy Spirit unites believers to Jesus Christ through faith and dwells within them (1 Corinthians 12:12-13; John 3:5-8; Romans 8:9-11), producing fruit in their lives (Galatians 5:16-24). The Holy Spirit has come to glorify the Son, who in turn came to glorify the Father (John 16:13-15, 17:4). The Holy Spirit leads the Church into a right understanding and application of God's word (John 16:13-15). He is to be respected, honored, and obeyed as God (Acts 5:1-5; Ephesians 4:30).

Section A.06 Man. God made man—male and female—in his own image, as the crown of creation, that man might have fellowship with him (Genesis 1:26-27). God created man with a reasonable and immortal soul (Genesis 2:7), endued with knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness, having the law of God written in his heart (Romans 2:14-15) and power to fulfill it (Ecclesiastes 7:29), yet under a possibility of transgressing (Genesis 3:6). The man and the woman were in communion with God and with each other. God blessed man and gave them dominion over all earthly creatures. Representing the human race as real and historical persons, Adam and Eve rebelled against God after Satan tempted them, thereby forfeiting God's blessing and meriting God's judgment for themselves and all humanity (Genesis 3). Being estranged from his Maker, yet responsible to him, man became subject to divine wrath, inwardly depraved and—apart from a special work of grace—incapable of returning to God (Ephesians 2:1-3). This depravity is universal and pervasive, extending to the mind, will, and affections (Romans 3:10-18). Unregenerate man lives under the dominion of sin and Satan and is at enmity with God (Romans 5:10, 8:7; Colossians 1:21). Fallen, sinful man—whatever his character or attainments—is lost and without hope apart from salvation in Christ (Ephesians 2:12).

Section A.07 The Gospel. The Gospel is the good news that God redeems sinners through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

Jesus, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary (Luke 1:26-35), is both fully God and fully man who lived in perfect obedience to the will of the Father thereby meriting God's favor on our behalf (Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 2:22). His obedience to the Father culminated in his substitutionary atoning death, shedding his blood as a sacrifice on the cross under Pontius Pilate (Philippians 2:7-8; Hebrews 10:12) and taking upon himself the judgment our sins deserved (2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13; Romans 4:25). He was resurrected on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:4) and was seen by many witnesses (1 Corinthians 15:6). By his resurrection he was declared to be the Son of God (Romans 1:4) and having ascended into Heaven he is now seated at the right hand of the Father (Acts 1:9-11; Ephesians 1:20-23; Hebrews 10:12) and will return to judge the living and the dead (Matthew 25:31-46; 2 Timothy 4:1). His death and resurrection secured forgiveness of sins, righteousness before God, and eternal life for all who repent and believe (Romans 3:21-36, 4:25; John 3:16).

Jesus Christ is the only Savior of the world (1 John 4:14), the only way of salvation (John 14:6; Acts 4:12), and the only mediator between God and humanity (1 Timothy 2:5). This message of salvation in Christ alone is of first importance (1 Corinthians 15:1-5) and is foolishness to the world, but to those who are being saved it is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 1:18).

Section A.08 Man's Response to the Gospel. Man's response to the Gospel is rooted and grounded in the free and unconditional election of God for his own pleasure and glory (Ephesians 1:4-6; Acts 13:48). Yet the message of the Gospel is effectual only for those who, by God's grace, genuinely repent of their sins and put saving faith in Christ (Matthew 22:14; Mark 10:45). Believers are to preach this Gospel of grace sincerely and boldly to all men in all nations (Luke 24:46-47; Acts 16:31). Genuine repentance is characterized by a changed life, and saving faith is evidenced by Kingdom work (Luke 3:8; James 2:14-17; Ephesians 2:10). While neither repentance nor works save, unless a person is willing to deny himself, pick up his cross, and follow Christ, he cannot be Christ's disciple (Luke 9:23-24).

Section A.09 Benefits of the Gospel. Salvation, the free gift of God, is provided by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, for the glory of God alone (Ephesians 2:4-9; 1:14). Anyone who repents of sin and trusts in Christ is declared righteous by God as a free gift and receives eternal life (John 3:16, 2 Corinthians 5:21). The righteousness of Christ is imputed to him. He is justified and fully accepted by God and brought into his Kingdom (Colossians 1:13). Through Christ's atonement for sin, an individual is reconciled to God the Father and becomes his child (Romans 3:21-26, 5:1-11). The believer is forgiven the debt of his sin and by the miracle of regeneration is liberated from the law of sin and death into the freedom of God's Spirit (Romans 8:1-3). Having been united to Christ, the believer partakes in his death and resurrection to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:3-5) and awaits the fullness of his glorification in the new heavens and the new earth (Romans 8:29-30; 1 Corinthians 15:49; Revelation 21:1-4).

Section A.10 Sanctification. By the grace of God, the Holy Spirit sanctifies us, producing fruit in our lives and conforming us to the image of Christ (Titus 2:11-12; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Galatians 5:22-23). Although indwelling sin remains a reality, as we are led by the Spirit we grow in the knowledge of the Lord, freely keeping his commandments and endeavoring to live in the world so that all people may see our good works and glorify our Father, who is in Heaven (Galatians 5:16; Matthew 5:16). All believers are exhorted to persevere in the faith, knowing we will have to give an account to God for our every thought, word, and deed (Colossians 1:22-23; Romans 14:10-12). Nevertheless, a believer's ultimate confidence to persevere is based on God's sure promise to preserve his elect until the end (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; Philippians 1:6; Romans 8:33-39).

Section A.11 Empowered by the Spirit. In addition to effecting regeneration and sanctification, the Holy Spirit also empowers believers for Christian witness and service (Acts 1:8). While the Holy Spirit indwells all believers at conversion (1 Corinthians 12:13), the New Testament indicates that each believer should seek the ongoing, empowering work of the Spirit subsequent to conversion (Ephesians 5:18). The Holy Spirit imparts gifts for the edification of the Body and for various works of ministry (1 Corinthians 12:1-11). The gifts of the Holy Spirit are available today for the building up of the Church and the advancement of Christ's mission. We are to earnestly desire and employ them, in accordance with God's word (1 Corinthians 12:31, 14:1-5, 12, 26, 40).

Section A.12 The Church. God, by his Word and Spirit, creates the Church by calling sinners out of the whole human race into the fellowship of Christ's Body (Ephesians 1:13, 4:3-4). By the same Word and Spirit, he guides and preserves redeemed humanity (Romans 8:14; Ephesians 5:26). The Church is not merely a religious institution; rather, it is the temple of God made up of all people who have become genuine followers of Jesus Christ by personally trusting in him (Ephesians 2:21-22). The Church exists to worship and glorify God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It also exists to serve him by faithfully doing his will on Earth. This involves a commitment to see the Gospel preached and churches planted in all the world as an enduring witness to Jesus Christ. The ultimate mission of the Church is to make disciples through the preaching of the Gospel (Matthew 28:18-20). When God transforms human nature, this then becomes the chief means of society's transformation (1 Peter 4:10). Upon conversion, newly redeemed men and women are added to a local church in which they devote themselves to God's word, fellowship, the sacraments, prayer, and the mission of the Church (Acts 2:42).

While all members of Christ's body are called to employ their God-given gifts for ministry and service in the Church (Ephesians 4:12; 1 Corinthians 12:12-30; 1 Peter 4:10-11), Scripture restricts the office of pastor/elder to qualified men (1 Timothy 2:11; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 2 Timothy 2:1-2).

Section A.13 Sacraments of the Church. Water baptism is intended only for individuals who have professed faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior (Acts 2:38). In obedience to Christ's command—and as a testimony to God, the Church, and the world—a believer, therefore, should be immersed in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19). Through baptism, the believer provides a visual demonstration of his union with Christ in the likeness of his death and resurrection. It vividly depicts that a believer's former way of life has been put to death and his new life in Christ has begun (Romans 6:1-11).

As with baptism, only genuine followers of Christ are to observe the Lord's Supper. This ordinance symbolizes the breaking of Christ's body and the shedding of his blood on our behalf and a Christian is to observe it repeatedly throughout his life as a sign of continued participation in the atoning benefits of Christ's death (Matthew 26:26-29). As we partake of the Lord's Supper with an attitude of faith and self-examination, we remember and proclaim the death of Christ, receive spiritual nourishment for our souls, and signify our unity with other members of Christ's body (1 Corinthians 11:27-28, 11:26, 10:17).

Section A.14 Marriage. God ordained marriage as a covenantal union between one genetic man and one genetic woman, which he established at creation and which the Lord Jesus and his apostles affirmed (Genesis 1:26-28, 2:15-25; Matthew 19:4-6; Colossians 3:18-22; Hebrews 13:4).
God intends marriage to reflect the union between Christ and the Church. Men and women are made in the image of God and therefore have equal dignity and worth. However, a husband and a wife have been given different roles within the marriage relationship to fulfill God's design. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the Church, while a wife is to submit herself to the loving leadership of her husband just as the Church willingly submits to the headship of Christ (Ephesians 5:22-33; 1 Corinthians 11:3-12).

Scripture prohibits fornication, adultery, homosexuality, polygamy, and any sexual acts outside the bounds of God-ordained marriage (1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4). But forgiveness of sin and cleansing is offered to all in the name of Christ through repentance and faith (1 Corinthians 6:11).

Section A.15 The Consummation. The Consummation of all things includes the visible, personal, and glorious return of Jesus Christ, the resurrection of the dead and the translation of those alive in Christ, the judgment of the just and the unjust, and the fulfillment of Christ's Kingdom in the new heavens and the new earth (Matthew 24:30; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; Acts 17:31, 24:15; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Revelation 21:1-4). In the Consummation, Satan with his hosts and all those outside Christ will be finally separated from the benevolent presence of God, condemned to eternal punishment in Hell (Luke 13:28), but the righteous, in glorified bodies (1 Corinthians 15:53), shall live and reign with him forever (Revelation 20:10, 20:15, 22:1-5). The Church, as Christ's Bride, will be in the presence of God forever, serving him and giving him unending praise and glory, with sin and all its consequences removed. Then the eager expectation of creation will be fulfilled, and the whole Earth shall proclaim the glory of God, who makes all things new (Romans 8:18-25).

Exhibit B: MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT

Agreement Among the Members of Covenant Life Church

Having been united with the risen Lord Jesus Christ through repentance and faith I commit, by his grace, to the following agreements with members of this church:

- To live under God's gracious and authoritative rule as recorded in Holy Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- To observe the sacraments of Baptism (Matthew 28:18-20), signifying entrance into the family of God, and the Lord's Supper (Matthew 26:26-29), signifying ongoing fellowship with God.
- To gather regularly with the people of God in this church family for worship, preaching, prayer, communion, fellowship, and edification (Galatians 4:4-7; Hebrews 3:12-14, 10:24-25; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 1 Peter 4:10-11; Isaiah 2:3; Psalm 99).
- To preserve the unity of the Spirit by loving others and pursuing peace as befits the family of God (Matthew 5:9; Ephesian 4:1-6, 32, 5:1-2; Galatians 5:13-15; Philippians 2:1-11; Hebrews 12:14).
- To live a holy life in accordance with my death to sin and resurrection to new life, which I have experienced by faith in Christ (Romans 6:1-4).
- To pursue loving care and discipline of the members of this church if they stray from Christ and to submit to the same discipline should I stray from Christ (Matthew 18:15-20).[*]
- To follow the elders of this church as they follow Christ in his Word, considering their teaching and lives in light of Holy Scripture (Acts 17:10-12; 2 Timothy 1:13-14; Hebrews 13:7, 17).
- To maintain Gospel ministry for the salvation of all people locally, nationally, and globally as God provides opportunity (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:6-8).
- To give my time, talents, and financial resources as God provides for the building up of this church, the relief of the poor, and the proclamation of the Gospel both here and abroad (1 John 3:16-18; 2 Corinthians 8-9; Acts 2:42-47).
- To support the Statement of Faith of this church.
- To notify the elders of this church if I decide to cease formal membership here and to seek membership elsewhere so that I might carry out similar Gospel ministry with a new church family (Hebrews 10:24-25).

______________________	______________________
Name of Member	Name of Elder
______________________	______________________
Signature of Member and Date	Signature of Elder and Date

[*] See also the church's policy on church discipline

Commitments of the Elders to Members of Covenant Life Church

In addition to abiding by the membership agreement, the elders of Covenant Life Church commit to the following:

- To care for the church (Acts 20:28) in the fear of God (2 Corinthians 5:9-11) under the rule of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 5:4) by the power of the Holy Spirit, praying for the grace of God to be upon this church.
- To teach and counsel the whole of Scripture (1 Timothy 4:13; 2 Timothy 4:1-2; Titus 2:1) and to equip the saints for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:11-12).
- To hold fast to the good news of Jesus Christ crucified and risen from the dead (2 Timothy 2:8-10; Galatians 1:6-10).
- To lead the church in worshiping Jesus Christ together and obeying him in the ordinances of Baptism (Matthew 28:18-20) and the Lord's Supper (Matthew 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:23-27).
- To steward the financial and material resources of this church with integrity to advance the mission of Christ (Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Corinthians 8:20-21).
- To shepherd the church with loving care and to discipline its members should they stray from following Christ (Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Peter 5:1-3).
- To guard the church against false teaching and false teachers (Acts 20:28-31; 2 Timothy 1:14; Titus 1:9).
- To uphold the Statement of Faith of this church in our teaching and our lives.
- To be an example to this church for her well-being and edification and to lead in a gracious way as our God has revealed to us in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:17; 1 Timothy 4:12; Titus 2:7-8; 1 Peter 5:1-3).

The Elders of Covenant Life Church